

CLAIMS

1. A process for providing prescription products to a patient, wherein the patient is provided with prescription information from a prescription center, the process comprising the steps of:
 - 5 providing an electronic prescription entry system connected with an electronic communications network, wherein the entry system comprises means for converting written prescription information into electronic prescription information and means for communicating same to a plurality of remote dispensing centers, and wherein the entry system further comprises a display screen;
 - 10 providing to the entry system prescription information;
 - 15 providing a listing of remote dispensing centers on the display screen;
 - providing an order summary comprising the prescription information on the display screen;
 - 20 communicating said electronic prescription information to a selected one of said remote dispensing centers selected by a user;
 - generating a delivery order at the remote dispensing center; and
 - receiving viewable validating information from the prescription information at the entry system.
2. The process of claim 1 further comprising the step of storing the electronic prescription information in the entry system at least temporarily.
- 25 3. The process of claim 2 wherein the entry system further includes means for reading electronic or magnetic patient medical information and means for reading electronic or magnetic patient prescription information.
4. The process of claim 3 wherein the means for reading electronic or magnetic patient medical information includes magnetic stripe reading means.

5. The process of claim 3 wherein the means for reading electronic or magnetic patient medical information includes means for reading prescription information stored in an electronic medium.

5 6. The process of claim 1 wherein the step of providing the prescription information comprises making the prescription information inaccessible to the patient at least temporarily.

10 7. The process of claim 6 wherein the step of receiving the prescription information further comprises making the prescription information temporarily inaccessible to the patient.

15 8. A process of electronically controlling processing of prescription information and generation of an electronic order there for comprising the steps of:

providing an electronic user interface;

prompting a patient via said interface to enter personal identification information and prescription information in a computer readable format;

20 generating a list of suitable dispensing entities having remote receivers based on analysis of the personal identification information and prescription information, and displaying the list to a patient via the electronic user interface;

communicating an electronic copy of the personal information and prescription information to a remote receiver selected by the patient;

25 generating an electronic transaction log comprising transmission time, selected remote receiver, and number of pages transmitted to the remote receiver;

providing a transaction confirmation to the patient in an electronic format via the electronic user interface, and prompting the patient to enter a confirmation thereof.

9. The process of claim 8 wherein the step of prompting a patient to enter personal identification information comprises prompting the patient to enter prescription drug name, quantity and refills.

5 10. The process of claim 8 further comprising the step of prompting a patient for entry of insurance information.

11. The process of claim 8 wherein the step of communicating an electronic copy of the personal information and prescription information to a remote receiver comprises communicating a TIFF image thereto.

10 12. The process of claim 8 wherein the step of communicating an electronic copy of the personal information and prescription information to a remote receiver comprises communicating text data in an electronic format.

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13. The process of claim 8 wherein the process is software controlled.

14. The process of claim 8 wherein the process is hardware controlled.

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15. The process of claim 8 wherein the process is server controlled.

16. A method of providing for electronic communication and validation of an order for medical prescriptions comprising the steps of:

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providing a software controlled module having a display screen, scanning means, and electronic communication means;

generating a user prompt via said display screen for providing of patient geographic data to said scanning means;

generating a user prompt via said display screen for providing of patient prescription information to said scanning means;

generating a list of available dispensaries having remote receivers, based on synthesis of the personal identification information and prescription information, and displaying the list to a patient via the electronic user interface;

5 generating a user prompt via said display screen for patient selection of one dispensary;

generating a user prompt via said display screen for providing of patient insurance information to said scanning means;

10 providing on said display screen electronic representation of patient prescription information, and selected dispensary, and generating a user prompt for approval thereof;

communicating an electronic copy of patient prescription information and insurance information to the remote receiver of the selected dispensary via said electronic communication means;

15 providing on said display screen an electronic representation of order confirmation from said remote receiver;

storing in a computer readable format an electronic transaction log comprising transmission time, selected remote receiver and number of pages in the electronic copy.

20 17. The method of claim 16 wherein said scanning means includes a scanner for creating an electronic image of a prescription slip.

18. The method of claim 17 further comprising the step of providing marking means for indelible marking of a prescription slip.

25 19. The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of retaining a prescription slip in said module.

20. The method of claim 16 wherein the method is software controlled.

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